



Gay Men's Relationship Agreements in the Era of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis: An Analysis of Australian Behavioural Surveillance Data

Authors:

J MacGibbon, T Broady, K Drysdale, B Bavinton, E Lee, L Mao, G Prestage, M Holt

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: We thank all participants and the current and former members of the GCPS reference group.

DISCLOSURES: The Centre for Social Research in Health and the Kirby Institute are supported by the Australian Government Department of Health. The Gay Community Periodic Surveys are supported by state and territory health departments and surveillance funding from the Australian Government Department of Health. No pharmaceutical funding was involved in this research.

Background, aims & methods

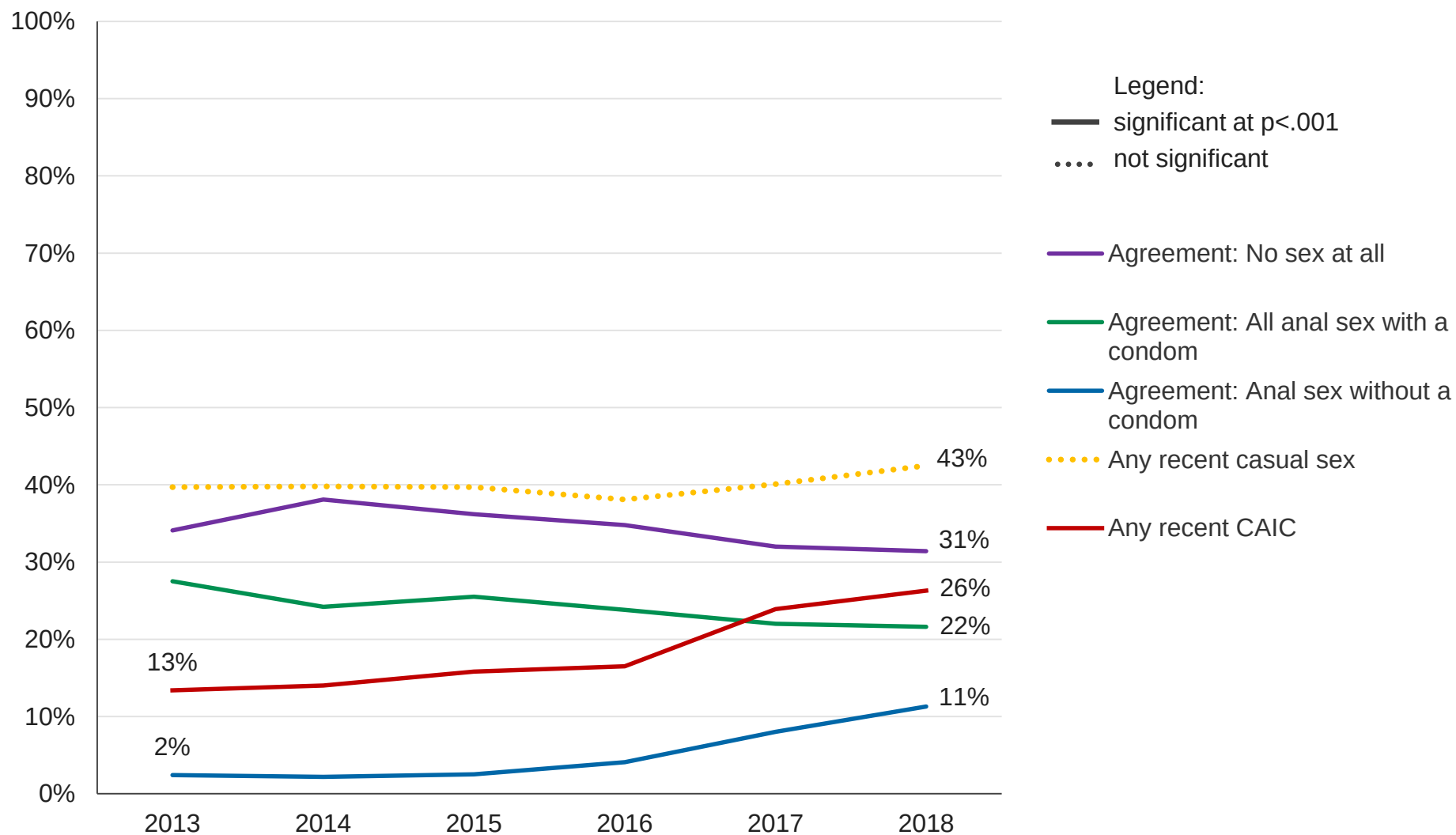
Background and aims

- Gay and bisexual men (GBM) in same HIV-status relationships have commonly agreed to condomless sex within the relationship, but not with casual sex partners ('negotiated safety')
- Growing numbers of GBM are adopting biomedical prevention strategies in place of consistent condom use
- We used behavioural surveillance data to examine trends in agreements about casual sex and condom use by men with regular partners

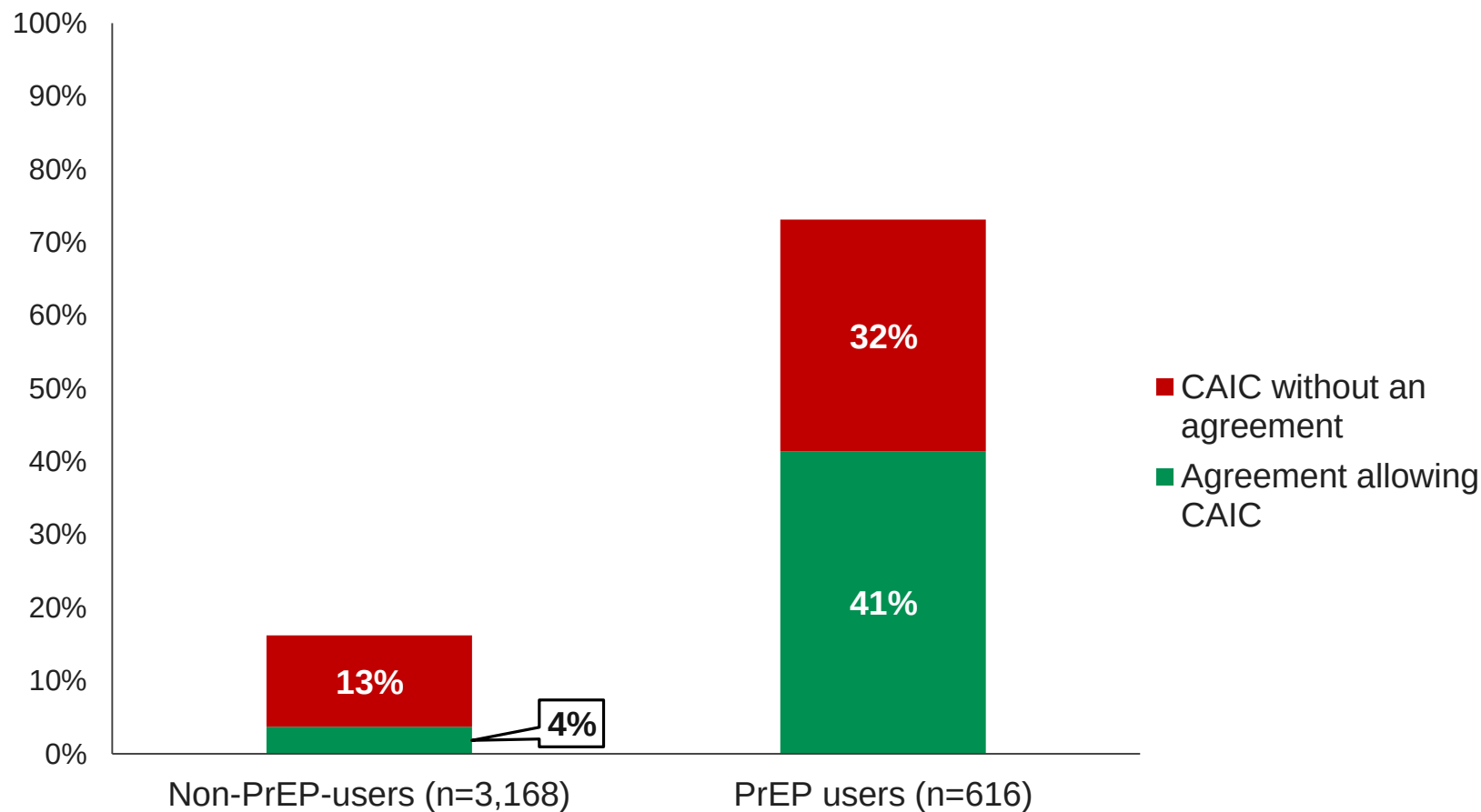
Methods

- Community-based, cross-sectional surveys of adult men were conducted across Australia during 2013–2018 (Gay Community Periodic Surveys; GCPS)
 - N=46,291 during 2013-18 (n=20,277 with regular partners)
- Binary logistic regression was used to test trends (controlling for demographic variables) and cross-sectional analysis to examine recent practice

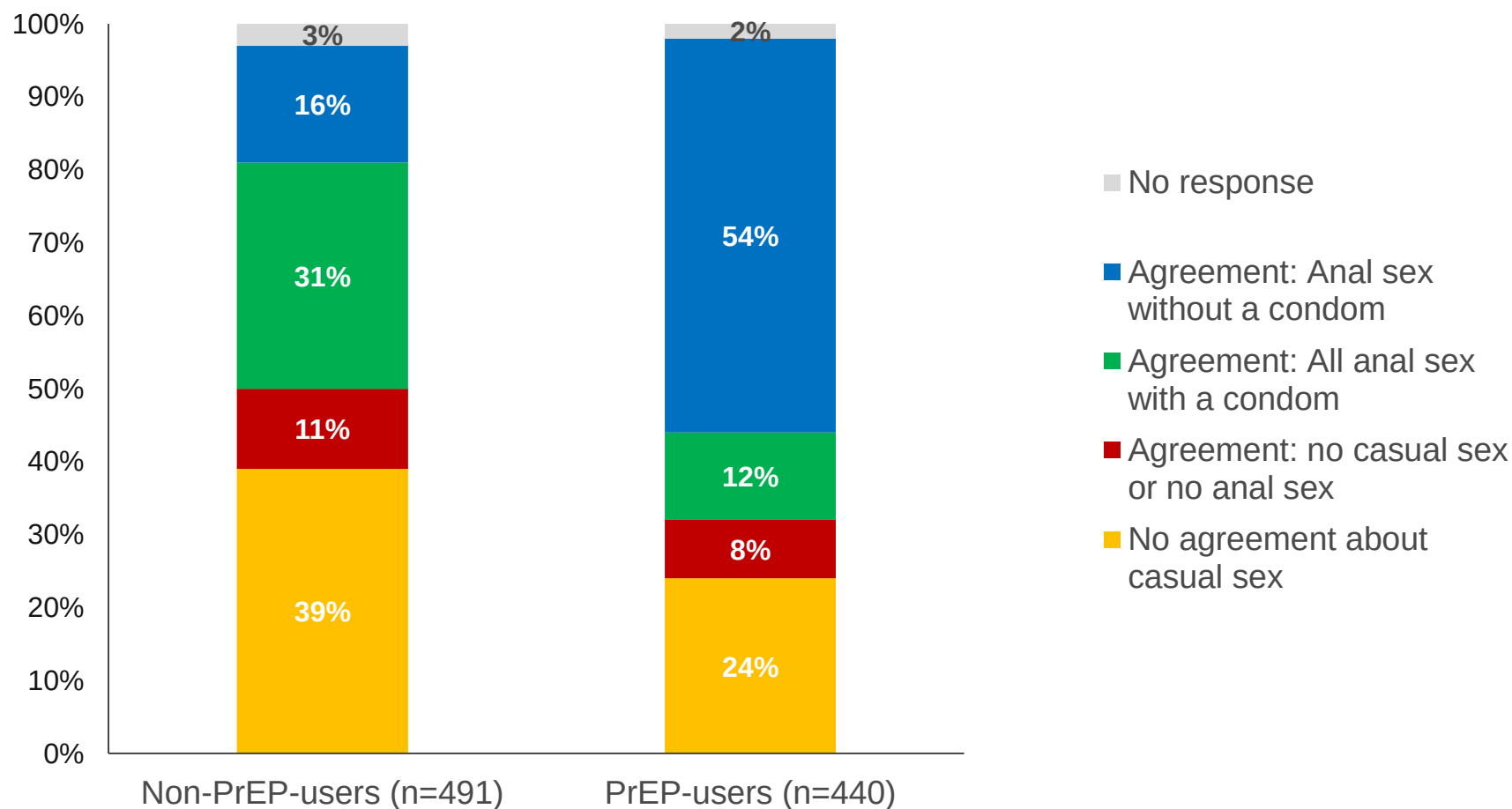
Trends in agreements & casual sex



Self-reported condomless anal sex with casual partners by PrEP use, 2016-18



Agreements of men reporting condomless sex with casual partners by PrEP use, 2016-18



Conclusions and implications

- The relationship agreements of GBM appear to have rapidly evolved in response to the introduction of PrEP
- Our findings show a shift away from relationship agreements in which condomless sex is only permitted between regular partners
- Clinicians and educators should be aware of trends in casual sex and agreements among partnered men to better support appropriate testing and disclosure about risk behaviours